

COUNCIL COMING ATTRACTIONS



Week of Nov. 9, 2020

COVID-19 Public Health Update, Coronavirus Relief Fund, Commission on Health, Subdivision Staging Policy, Townhouse Living Conditional Use Standards, Impact Tax Rates for Transportation and School Development, Arts COVID-19 Relief Fund, Additional Height in Commercial/Residential Zones, Surface Parking, Fair Criminal Record Screening Standards

Council Coming Attractions is a summary of some of the issues before the Council. All Council staff reports and additional information on each item scheduled for Council or Committee review can be viewed at: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/ondemand/index.html>

The Council meeting schedule may change from time to time. The current Council and Committee agendas can also be viewed at:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/ondemand/index.html>

The Council will hold virtual meetings on Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 9 a.m.

- Councilmember Craig Rice and County Executive Marc Elrich will present a proclamation recognizing Carbon Monoxide Awareness Month
- Councilmember Hans Riemer will present a proclamation recognizing heroes of NIH and FDA
- Council President Sidney Katz and County Executive Elrich will present a proclamation celebrating Veterans Day

COUNCIL

Resolution Designating Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation as the County's Economic Development Corporation

On Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 9:30 a.m. the Council will introduce a resolution designating the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) as the County's economic development corporation. MCEDC's designation expires on Jan. 1, 2021, and County law requires that the Council designate by resolution a nonprofit organization as the County's economic development corporation. The designation must be for five years and must be approved by the County Executive. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_3A.pdf

Supplemental Appropriation to the County Government's FY21 Operating Budget, Department of Correction and Rehabilitation - \$543,000 for the Inmate Advisory Council Fund

The Council will introduce a supplemental appropriation of \$543,000 to the Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Operating Budget of the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation. This appropriation would establish the Inmate Advisory Council Fund as a non-tax-supported special revenue fund. This increase is needed because, due to requirements in Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement 84, "Fiduciary Activities", the existing fiduciary Inmate Advisory Council Fund must be dissolved and reestablished as a non-tax-supported special revenue fund. This supplemental appropriation establishes the Inmate Advisory Council Fund and provides expenditure authority as a non-tax supported fund. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_3B.pdf

Amendment to the FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program, Department of Environmental Protection - \$4,700,000 for Transfer Station Fire Detection and Suppression System

The Council is scheduled to vote on a supplemental appropriation of \$4.7 million to the Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Budget and FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for the Department of Environmental Protection. This appropriation would fund fire detection and suppression system improvements at the County's Solid Waste Transfer Station. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_3D.pdf

Resolution to Endorse a Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority and Fund Loan to assist Supernus Pharmaceutical, Inc.'s retention in Montgomery County (\$800,000)

The Council is scheduled to vote on a resolution to endorse an \$800,000 Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority and Fund (MEDAAF) loan to assist Supernus Pharmaceutical, Inc.'s retention in the County. The County must endorse the MEDAAF loan in a formal resolution, as required by state law. The subject MEDAAF loan is part of a negotiated financial assistance package for the business's retention and expansion in the County. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_3E.pdf

Amendment to Resolution 19-506, Support for COVID-19 Response - Montgomery County Food Security Fund

The Council will introduce and is scheduled to vote on an amendment to Resolution 19-506, Support for COVID-19 Response - Montgomery County Food Security Fund. On June 23, the Council approved Resolution 19-506, which authorizes \$10.3 million in funding to implement and support the COVID-19 Pandemic Food Security Response Strategy. Since the approval of Resolution 19-506, the Food Security Task Force has identified an additional need for diapers, wipes and formula for households seeking food assistance. Diaper and formula assistance was not explicitly authorized in Resolution 19-506. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_3H.pdf

Special Appropriation to the FY21 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation Non-Departmental Account, Restaurant Relief Grant Program, \$8,230,497 (Source: State grant) and Amendment to the FY21 Operating Budget Resolution 19-472, Section G, Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status: Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation

The Council will introduce a special appropriation of \$8,230,497 to the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) NDA's FY21 Operating Budget. The County Executive has requested approval of the subject resolution to implement the Restaurant Relief Grant Program. This program is fully funded through a State grant as part of Governor Hogan's \$250 million "Maryland Strong: Economic Recovery Initiative." The County Executive has proposed that MCEDC implement the program for the County. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_3I.pdf

Special Appropriation to the County Government's FY21 Operating Budget, - \$35,636,325 for Federal Coronavirus Relief Fund NDA and Amendment to Resolution 19-498, Special Appropriation to the County Government's FY20 Operating Budget, Federal Coronavirus Relief Fund NDA

The Council will introduce a special appropriation of \$35,636,325 for the Federal Coronavirus Relief Fund NDA. This appropriation is requested for the remaining unappropriated CARES funds received from the federal government to allow funds to be expended by Dec. 30. This appropriation would authorize the County Government to expend these additional funds on the list of uses previously approved in Resolution 19-498 as amended; 2) further amend Resolution 19-498 to allow three additional uses for funds from the NDA; and 3) allow the NDA to reimburse the General Fund for two previously approved special appropriations. A public hearing and Council action on this appropriation is scheduled for Nov. 17 at 1:30 p.m. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_3J.pdf

Special Appropriation to the FY21 Capital Budget and Amendment to the FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) - Montgomery County Public Schools - Major Capital Projects - Elementary (No. 652101) (South Lake ES) - \$5,853,000

The Council will introduce a special appropriation of \$5,853,000 to the FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program for Montgomery County Public Schools. A public hearing and Council action on this appropriation is scheduled for Dec. 1 at 1:30 p.m. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_3K-3M.pdf

Special Appropriation to the FY21 Capital Budget and Amendment to the FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program - Montgomery County Public Schools - \$3,000,000 for HVAC (Mechanical Systems) Replacement: MCPS (No. 816633)

The Council will introduce a special appropriation of \$3 million to the FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program for Montgomery County Public Schools. A public hearing and Council action on this appropriation is scheduled for Dec. 1 at 1:30 p.m. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_3K-3M.pdf

Amendments to the FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program - Montgomery County Public Schools

The Council will introduce Amendments to the FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program for Montgomery County Public Schools: Clarksburg Cluster Elementary School (ES) (Clarksburg Village Site #2); Clarksburg High School (HS) Addition (No. 116505); Kensington-Parkwood ES Addition - (P651505); S. Christa McAuliffe ES Addition - (P651502); Judith Resnick ES Addition - (P651507); Shady Grove Transportation Depot Replacement - (P651641); and Blair G. Ewing Center Relocation - (P651515). The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_3K-3M.pdf

Annual Meeting with Commission on Health

The Council will hold its annual meeting with the Commission on Health. The Commission will provide the Council with its statement of priorities, including school health, public health data and modernization, communicable diseases and racial equity. The functions of the Commission on Health include advising the County Executive and the Council by periodically reviewing public health programs; commenting on gaps, deficiencies, or duplications in programs and services, including health disparities and inequities; reporting on the performance of County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) programs and actions needed to improve programs; commenting on funding for public health programs; and advising on health planning based on health status data. The Commission on Health has 19 voting members from a cross section of consumers and providers of health care. One member must be a member of the Montgomery County Medical Society. The Health Officer and a Council representative (council staff) are non-voting members. The following individuals are expected to attend the meeting: Desiree de la Torre, chair, Commission on Health; Christopher Burt, vice chair, Commission on Health; and Vanessa Kachipande, DHHS program manager, Commission on Health. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_4A.pdf

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and County Public Health Planning

The Council will sit as the Board of Health to receive an update on the County's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its recovery efforts. The Council will be joined by Dr. Travis Gayles, County health officer and chief of the Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Public Health Services; Dr. Earl Stoddard, director, Office of Emergency management and Homeland Security; and Dr. Raymond Crowel, director, DHHS. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_4B.pdf

Coronavirus Relief Fund

As the result of the Council's Oct. 13 meeting, requested by Councilmember Nancy Navarro and supported by the full Council, about the Coronavirus Relief Fund, the Council receives a weekly status report on appropriations and expenditures from the fund by executive branch staff. Since all funds must be used by Dec. 31, 2020, it is important to track the County's use of the funds and whether any reallocations or additional appropriations are necessary. Rich Madaleno, chief administrative officer, and Dr. Earl Stoddard, director, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, will brief the Council. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_4C.pdf

Office of Inspector General Report of Investigation: DPS Inspectors Were Overpaid COVID Differential Pay, OIG Publication #OIG-21-06

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) released Report of Investigation: DPS Inspectors Were Overpaid COVID Differential Pay on Nov. 6. The OIG initiated this investigation based on allegations that the County Department of Permitting Services (DPS) inspectors were paid COVID-19 differential pay to which they were not entitled. The investigation found that DPS inspectors were wrongly paid COVID-19 related differential pay from approximately March 29 to August 29, 2020. The Council will receive a briefing on the report from the Inspector General and hold an oversight discussion with OIG and Executive Branch staff. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_3-5.pdf

Bill 35-20, Human Rights and Civil Liberties - Fair Criminal Record Screening Standards - Amendments

The Council is scheduled to vote on Bill 35-20, which would do the following: alter definitions regarding fair criminal record screening standards; prohibit certain inquiries regarding criminal records; prohibit

consideration of certain arrests and convictions in employment decisions; and generally amend the law regarding criminal record screenings. Councilmember Will Jawando is the lead sponsor. The goal of this legislation is to help prevent workplace discrimination by preventing background checks prior to the extension of a conditional offer of employment and preventing inquiries into certain types of arrests and convictions. The Public Safety (PS) and Health and Human Services (HHS) Committees recommend enactment with an amendment to specify that an employer may not consider a first misdemeanor (as opposed to felony) conviction of second-degree assault. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_12A.pdf

#BanTheBox is being used for this bill on social media.

Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 20-05, Commercial/Residential Zones - Additional Height

The Council will introduce ZTA 20-05, which would allow a maximum building height of 200 feet for certain properties in the Commercial/Residential (CR) zone under certain circumstances. Council Vice President Tom Hucker is the lead sponsor. The maximum building height in a CR zone is generally determined when the zone is placed on the official zoning map. There are properties very near Metrorail stations in central business districts that are mapped with a maximum height of 145 feet but have abutting and confronting properties that are mapped with a building height of 200 feet. Under certain circumstances, ZTA 20-05 would allow an increase in building height up to 200 feet for those properties without going through a local map amendment process. The ZTA includes a sunset provision. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_13A.pdf

Zoning Text Amendment 20-06, Surface Parking - Residential Zones

The Council will introduce ZTA 20-06, which would allow the Planning Board approval of a site plan to supersede a special exception for surface parking in a residential zone at the option of the site plan applicant. In the absence of ZTA 20-06, a project involving a change to the commercial use that originally used special exception parking is subject to both site plan and special exception approval. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_13B.pdf

Planning Board Draft Amendment for the Mesrobian House: Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation

The Council will review and is scheduled to vote on a Planning Board draft amendment to the [Master Plan for Historic Preservation](#), which is the County's preservation planning document and which includes the list of all officially designated historic sites and districts. The amendment for the Mesrobian House was prepared at the request of the heirs of Mihran Mesrobian (owners of the property until 2020) and with the support of the present property owners. On July 23, 2020, the Planning Board held a public hearing, worksession and voted on the subject plan. As a result, the Board listed the property in the Locational Atlas & Index of Historic Sites and recommends amending the Master Plan for Historic Preservation to list the subject property as a Master Plan Historic Site. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_14.pdf

2020-2024 Subdivision Staging Policy

The Council will continue its review of the County's 2020-2024 Subdivision Staging Policy, which is one of the many ways that policymakers maintain and enhance Montgomery County's outstanding quality of life. The Subdivision Staging Policy is based on having sufficient infrastructure to support new development. It includes criteria and guidance for the administration of Montgomery County's Adequate Public Facility Ordinance (APFO), which matches the timing of private development with the availability of public infrastructure. Every four years, recommendations for policy updates reflecting current growth

patterns start with the Montgomery Planning Department, before being reviewed and approved by the Montgomery County Planning Board and the Council. The Council staff report can be viewed here:
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_15.pdf

Bill 37-20, Subdivision – Preliminary Plan – Adequate Public Facilities – Amendments

The Council will continue its review of Bill 37-20, which would require an applicant requesting an extension of an adequate public facilities determination to provide a new determination of school adequacy for any remaining unbuilt units under the school test in effect at the time of the Planning Board's review. Council President Sidney Katz is the lead sponsor, at the request of the Planning Board. The Council staff report can be viewed here:
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_15.pdf

#ValidityPeriod is being used for this bill on social media.

Bill 38-20, Taxation – Development Impact Taxes for Transportation and Public School Improvements – Amendments

The Council will continue its review of Bill 38-20, which would amend transportation and school impact tax district designations and the impact tax rates that apply in these districts. Bill 38-20 also would modify the applicability of development impact tax exemptions for certain uses and in certain locations, and generally amend the law governing transportation and school development impact taxes. Council President Sidney Katz is the lead sponsor, at the request of the Planning Board. The Council staff report can be viewed here:
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_15.pdf

#ImpactTax is being used for this bill on social media.

Expedited Bill 39-20, Taxation - Recordation Tax – Amendments

The Council will continue its review of Expedited Bill 39-20, which would increase the rate of the recordation tax levied under state law for certain transactions involving the transfer of property and would establish a partial exemption from the recordation tax for a first-time home buyer. Moreover, Bill 39-20 would amend the allocation of revenue received from the recordation tax to capital improvements for schools and to the Montgomery Housing Initiative Fund. Council President Sidney Katz is the lead sponsor, at the request of the Planning Board. The Council staff report can be viewed here:
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_15.pdf

#RecordationTax is being used for this bill on social media.

Resolution to Adopt Executive Order 122-20AM, COVID-19 Local Order Amending and Restating Order Dated Sept. 29, 2020 as a Board of Health Regulation

The Council is scheduled to vote on a resolution to approve Executive Order No. 122-20 AM, COVID-19 Local Order – Amending and Restating Order dated Sept. 29, 2020. If the Council approves the Executive Order, the Council, sitting as the Board of Health, is scheduled to introduce, hold a public hearing, and act on a Board of Health regulation adopting Executive Order No. 122-20 AM, COVID-19 Local Order – Amending and Restating Order dated Sept. 29, 2020 as a Board of Health Regulation. The Council staff report and Executive Order will be available here on Nov. 9:
https://montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_AG.pdf

PUBLIC HEARINGS

All Council public hearings will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 1:30 p.m.

Forest Glen/Montgomery Hills Sectional Map Amendment

The Council will hold a public hearing on Forest Glen/Montgomery Hills Sectional Map Amendment (SMA) H-137, which was filed by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. SMA H-137 is a comprehensive rezoning application to implement the zoning recommendations contained in the approved and adopted [Forest Glen/Montgomery Hills Sector Plan](#). The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_5.pdf

Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 20-03, Townhouse Living - Conditional Use Standards

The Council will hold a public hearing on ZTA 20-03, which would amend the standards for allowing townhouse dwelling units as a conditional use. Townhouses are allowed as a conditional use in the RE-1 (rural estate) and R200, R-90 and R-40 residential zones. Councilmember Hans Riemer is the lead sponsor. Conditional use approval allows a density of up to 15.7 townhouses per acre for developments, where all structures meet livability standards for accommodating disabled residents, including where all parking spaces are designed to have eight-foot access aisles. ZTA 20-03 would eliminate the requirement for public bus service abutting the site; increase allowed distance from recreation facilities to 1,500 feet; clarify that the distance to a Metro station is measured as a radius; and require an access aisle for one of every four parking spaces. A Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 30. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_6.pdf

Resolution to Amend Development Impact Tax Rates for Transportation and Public School Improvements

The Council will hold a public hearing on a resolution to amend development impact tax rates for transportation and public school improvements. In Oct., the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee reviewed development impact taxes for schools and transportation and recordation tax amendments. The Committee discussed impact tax credits for projects providing two- and three-bedroom housing units; the impact tax exemption for projects providing a minimum of 25 percent affordable units; and recommended changes to the recordation tax to provide additional funding for school construction and the County's Housing Initiative Fund. The GO Committee recommendations reflect the creation of three zones for the School Impact Tax. The GO Committee recommends no changes to the Transportation Impact Tax rate schedule. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_7.pdf

Supplemental Appropriation to Montgomery College's FY21 Current Fund Budget - \$4,497,874 for CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

The Council will hold a public hearing on a supplemental appropriation of nearly \$4.5 million for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund Formula Grant. The source of funds is the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act-Coronavirus Relief Fund. Montgomery College was awarded \$10,995,749 in CARES Act funds for direct relief to students and institutional purposes related to COVID19 impacts, and \$5,497,875 is allocated to provide emergency relief to students. In May, the Council approved a \$1 million appropriation in CARES funding for institutional purposes. The College has requested approval to utilize the remaining \$4,497,874 to support technology access for students, faculty and staff; student assessment, placement and advising; specialized equipment and technology for students needing disability support services; training faculty for structured remote teaching; and development of online and remote labs and activities. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_8.pdf

Special Appropriation to the County Government's FY21 Operating Budget Children's Opportunity Fund Non-Departmental Account (NDA) - \$1,800,000 for COVID-19 Educational Enrichment and Equity Hubs and Amendment to FY21 Operating Budget Resolution 19-472 Section G, FY21 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status: Greater Washington Community Foundation

The Council will hold a public hearing on a \$1.8 million special appropriation for the Children's Opportunity Fund and the Black and Brown Coalition for Educational Equity and Excellence to expand the number of Educational Equity and Enrichment (EEE) Hub sites. This funding will serve 500 children throughout the County during a 12-week period. Councilmember Craig Rice, who serves as chair of the Council's Education and Culture Committee, initiated this funding, which is being sponsored by the full Council. The goal of the program is to provide supervision and virtual learning supports to mitigate the negative impact that distance learning challenges have on Black and brown students and those from low-income families. The Council staff report will be available on Nov. 9.

Special Appropriation to the County Government's FY21 Operating Budget, Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County (AHCMC) NDA - \$406,190 for Arts COVID-19 Relief Fund

The Council will hold a public hearing on a \$406,190 special appropriation to provide additional emergency grant funding to the Arts and Humanities COVID-19 Relief Fund so that all eligible organizations and individuals will receive equitable grant funding levels. The County will seek reimbursement from the federal and state government for any eligible costs. The Education and Culture (E&C) Committee recommends approval with an amendment to increase the special appropriation by \$71,690 to total \$406,190. Emergency relief funding will total \$3,656,190 to ensure eligible arts organizations and artists receive equitable grant funding levels. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_10.pdf

Special Appropriation to the County Government's FY21 Operating Budget, Office of the County Executive - \$5,050,000 for Support for COVID-19 Response - Tourism Stabilization Grant Program; and Amendment to FY21 Operating Budget Resolution 19-472, Section G, Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status: Conference and Visitors Bureau

The Council will hold a public hearing and is expected to vote on a \$5,050,000 special appropriation to create the Tourism Stabilization Grant Program. This grant program will be administered by the Office of the County Executive and provide grants to eligible non-profit organizations in the tourism industry and fund an accreditation program through Visit Montgomery. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201110/20201110_11.pdf

COMMITTEE

MC 311 Performance

On Monday, Nov. 9 at 9:30 a.m. the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee will receive an update on MC311 performance and review the operations and needed future improvements of the MC311 call center. The individuals expected to attend the meeting include the following: Fariba Kassiri, deputy chief administrative officer; Barry Hudson, director, Public Information Office; Brian Roberts, acting manager, MC311; Gail Roper, director, Department of Technology Services (DTS); Shayna Taqi, DTS Change Management; and Dr. Raymond Crowel, director, Health and Human Services. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2020/20201109/20201109_GO1.pdf

Bill 32-20, Solid Waste (Trash) - Waste Reduction/Source Reduction and Single-Use straws - Requirements

On Monday, Nov. 9 at 2:30 p.m. the Transportation and Environment (T&E) Committee will review Bill 32-20, which would do the following: establish a program for waste reduction/source reduction in Montgomery County; provide criteria for waste reduction initiatives and programs; set forth the method by which the program is established; prohibit the distribution of single-use straws except in certain circumstances; and post information that plastic straws will no longer be provided to a customer, except when necessary to accommodate a medical or disability-related need of a customer. Council President Sidney Katz is the lead sponsor of the bill, at the request of the County Executive. The T&E Committee has previously recommended the following amendments to Bill 32-20:

- remove the authority to do a waste reduction program by regulation;
- remove PLA from the list of allowable straws
- clarify that a food service business is not required to verify a customer's medical or disability need before obtaining a straw
- allow a food service business to provide a straw in self-service dispensers and for carryout, delivery, and drive thru sales after the business asks the customer if one is needed; and
- require an educational campaign.

The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2020/20201109/20201109_TE1.pdf

Circuit Court Operations (Courts and Sheriff)

On Nov. 12 at 9:30 a.m. the Public Safety (PS) Committee will receive an update on Circuit Court operations. The Montgomery County Circuit Court is a court of general jurisdiction, with authority to hear certain types of civil and criminal cases. It is the only court in the County authorized to conduct jury trials, and is part of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, comprising Montgomery and Frederick Counties. The Council staff report will be available on Nov. 10.

Diversity and Cultural Competency in Mental Health Professionals

On Nov. 12 at 1:30 p.m. the Education and Culture (E&C) and Health and Human Services (HHS) Committees will meet jointly to review diversity and cultural competency in the mental health professions. The Council staff report will be available on Nov. 10.

Early Care and Education Initiative

The E&C and HHS Committees also will receive an update on the Early Care and Education Initiative, which is a four-year action plan, spearheaded by then-Council President Nancy Navarro and County Executive Marc Elrich, that aims to create a comprehensive system of high-quality, accessible and affordable early childhood educational opportunities. The Council staff report will be available on Nov. 10.